



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Democrats and Republicans hold Black History Month celebrations with an eye on November's election



Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel speaks before a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by NBC News, Nov. 8, 2023, at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami.

Associated Press

By MATT BROWN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black History Month, often a time

to recognize the contributions of African Americans in U.S. history, was marked in the nation's capital

this week with a focus on present divides and the November election when Black turnout will be inte-

gral to the outcome. At the White House, the Biden administration on Tuesday hosted more than two

dozen family members of civil rights icons and major historical figures for a gala celebrating Black history. Vice President Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance where she praised the families and recounted the administration's commitment to Black communities.

A few hours later, Republicans held a reception in Washington's U Street neighborhood, a key part of Black history in the city, to celebrate former GOP officials and activists who have engaged Black voters.

The White House has taken Black History Month as an opportunity to highlight the administration's efforts on priorities such as education, voting rights and jobs. Republicans see a chance to win more votes from a core Democratic constituency, noting President Joe Biden's lower popularity with Black adults and the criticism he has taken for inflation and his handling of the border.

Continued on next page

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Biden's approval rating among Black adults was 42% in a January poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, a substantial drop from the first year of his presidency.

Democrats are spotlighting Biden's support with civil rights stalwarts and lambasting Republicans for enacting policies restricting how educators discuss race and history in the classroom.

"We know that those who don't remember their history are doomed to repeat it," said Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell, to the families assembled at the White House. Sewell represents Selma, Alabama, where white police beat Black civil rights marchers in 1965 on a day remembered today as "Bloody Sunday."

"At a time when extremists seek to erase our history and roll back our progress, we should take a lesson from our foremothers and forefathers," she said.

Republicans held their own Black History Month celebration later that evening with about 100 people.

"As RNC Chair, I have made it a mission to reach out to communities and voters that we have ignored as a party," said Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel during Tuesday night's event. "Black voters are going to make history this November because they're going to vote Republican at the highest level we've ever seen," McDaniel predicted to applause from the audi-



President Joe Biden, holds hands with Vice President Kamala Harris as he speaks at a reception in recognition of Black History Month in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

ence.

The RNC intends to expand its number of community outreach centers in Black communities after the GOP primary concludes. The party has been optimistic about its chances to improve its poor margins with Black voters since Republicans made slight inroads with them in the 2022 midterm elections.

But the party's current focus on issues like the teaching of race and history may risk mobilizing Black voters against the GOP.

Republican officials in at least a dozen states have enacted policies that regulate how educators discuss topics including race, history and gender in the classroom.

"This moment in time is evidence that our history is un-

bannable, that teaching it is core to our progress, and that Black history is American history," Nevada Rep. Steve Horsford, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, told the White House crowd.

The Biden campaign dismissed GOP Black voter outreach as insincere and noted that former President Donald Trump, the current front-runner for the GOP nomination, had dinner in 2022 with Nick Fuentes, a Holocaust-denying white nationalist.

"In Donald Trump's Republican Party, celebrating Black History Month means teaching kids that slavery benefited Black people, papering over slavery as the cause of the Civil War and sharing well-done steaks doused in ketchup

with white supremacists at Mar-a-Lago," said Biden campaign communications director Michael Tyler. "I'm sure they'll serve up plenty of the same at their little event."

The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

On Tuesday, the Biden campaign rolled out new ads targeting Black voters by highlighting the administration's investments in historically Black colleges and universities as well as the number of Black officeholders appointed by Biden, including Harris, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. And the Democratic National Committee on Wednesday unveiled digital ads targeting HBCUs in battleground

states that touts Biden's record on student debt.

Democrats point to record-low Black unemployment, policies capping the cost of insulin and Biden's cancellation of about \$137 billion in student loan debt as policies they hope will boost support among Black voters. And party officials and strategists stress that its emphasis on Black voters extends beyond a single month of events.

Biden also moved to increase Black political power when he upended precedent to place South Carolina and its substantial Black population first in the party's primary calendar. South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn, a veteran of the Civil Rights movement and a close Biden ally, co-chairs the president's reelection campaign.

According to some of the assembled Republican activists on Tuesday night, many of whom are Black, the GOP simply lacked the sustained efforts needed to court more Black voters. Quenton Jordan, a Republican activist who won an award at the event, said that the GOP is now "putting forth an effort to capture the Black vote where in previous years, that just wasn't the case."

"I remember when we had a greater pool," said Ken Blackwell, a former Ohio Republican secretary of state who received an award at the reception. "That's why this is important. To reengage, to give our narrative and give them a choice. But first, we've got to show up." □

Environmental groups sue to force government to finalize ship speed rules that protect rare whales



North Atlantic right whales interact at the surface on Cape Cod Bay near a research vessel from the International Fund for Animal Welfare, March 27, 2023, off the coast of Massachusetts.

Associated Press

By PATRICK WHITTLE

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A coalition of environmental groups has sued the federal government to try to force the finalization of ship speed rules that the groups say are critically important to save a vanishing species of whale.

The proposed ship speed rules would require vessels off the East Coast to slow down more often to help save the North Atlantic right

whale. The whale numbers less than 360 and has been in decline in recent years in large part because of collisions with ships and entanglement in commercial fishing gear.

The environmental groups filed in federal court Tuesday with a request to allow a paused lawsuit about the ship speed rules to go forward. Members of the groups have criticized the federal government for

delays in releasing the final rules and said they hope to force a deadline via their lawsuit.

"The federal government has known for years that right whales urgently require expanded vessel strike protections, yet has repeatedly kicked the can down the road," said Jane Davenport, senior attorney at Defenders of Wildlife, one of the groups involved in the lawsuit. □

House Intelligence Committee chair warns of a serious national security threat

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican head of the House Intelligence Committee urged the Biden administration on Wednesday to declassify information about what he called a serious national security threat. Rep. Mike Turner gave no details about the nature of the threat, and the Biden administration also declined to address it. But several leading lawmakers, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, cautioned against being overly alarmed.

Johnson said he was not at liberty to disclose the classified information. "But we just want to assure everyone steady hands are at the wheel. We're working on it and there's no need for alarm," he told reporters at the Capitol.

Turner earlier Wednesday sent an email to members of Congress saying his committee had "identified an urgent matter with regard



Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, speaks during a House Intelligence Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Nov. 20, 2019.

Associated Press

to a destabilizing foreign military capability" that should be known to all congressional policy makers. He encouraged them to come to a SCIF, a secure area, to review the intelligence.

Turner has been a voice for stronger U.S. national security, putting him at odds with some Republican colleagues who favor a more isolationist approach. He has called for the renewal of a key U.S. government

surveillance tool while some fellow Republicans and liberal Democrats have raised privacy objections.

And he supports continuing U.S. military aid for Ukraine in its war against Russia at

a time that the funding remains uncertain because of opposition in the Republican-led House.

Democratic Rep. Jim Himes, the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee, said in a statement that the classified information is "significant" but "not a cause for panic."

The Senate Intelligence Committee said it has been tracking the issue.

"We continue to take this matter seriously and are discussing an appropriate response with the administration," Sen. Mark Warner, the Democratic committee chairman, and Sen. Marco Rubio, the Republican vice chairman, said in a statement. "In the meantime, we must be cautious about potentially disclosing sources and methods that may be key to preserving a range of options for U.S. action."

Turner's announcement appeared to catch the Biden administration off-guard. □

Illegal border crossings from Mexico plunge after a record-high December, with fewer from Venezuela

By REBECCA SANTANA and
ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arrests for illegal crossings on the U.S. border with Mexico fell by half in January from record highs in December to the third lowest month of Joe Biden's presidency, authorities said Tuesday.

The sharp drop is welcome news for the White House, even if it proves temporary, as immigration becomes one of the biggest issues in this year's presidential election, with exit polls showing it is the top concern among many Republican voters in early primaries. House Republicans voted Tuesday to impeach U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for his oversight of the border.

Seasonal declines and heightened enforcement

by the U.S. and its allies led to the sharp decline, said Troy Miller, acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. U.S. authorities have repeatedly praised Mexico for a crackdown launched in late December.

Border Patrol arrests totaled 124,220 in January, down 50% from 249,735 in December, the highest monthly tally on record. Arrests of Venezuelans plunged 91% to 4,422 from 46,920 in December.

Numbers ebb and flow,

and the January decline may prove tenuous. Panama reported that 36,001 migrants traversed the notorious Darien Gap in January, up 46% from December. The vast majority who cross the Panamanian jungle are Venezuelans headed to the United States, with considerable numbers from Haiti, China, Ecuador and Colombia.

"We continue to experience serious challenges along our border which surpass the capacity of the immigration system," Miller said.

Tucson, Arizona, was again the busiest sector for illegal crossings with 50,565 arrests, down 37% from December, followed by San Diego. Arrests in the Border Patrol's Del Rio sector, which includes the city of Eagle Pass, the main focus of Texas Gov. Greg

Abbott's border enforcement efforts, plummeted 76% from December to 16,712, the lowest since December 2021. Arrests in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, dropped 60% to 7,340, the lowest since July 2020.

The only months of Biden's presidency with fewer border arrests were in June 2023, after pandemic-related asylum restrictions lifted, and February 2021, his first full month in office. During an interview with The Associated Press in January, Mayorkas said that Mexico's immigration enforcement agency didn't have the funds in December to carry out enforcement actions but when that was rectified, there was an immediate and substantial drop in the number of migrants encountered at the southern border. □



Asylum-seeking migrants hold their documents as they line up in a makeshift, mountainous campsite to be processed after crossing the border with Mexico, Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, near Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif.

Associated Press

Dozens of gang members in Boston charged with drug trafficking, COVID-19 fraud

By **MICHAEL CASEY**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Dozens of gang members operating mostly out of a public housing developing in a Boston neighborhood have been accused of dealing drugs, targeting their rivals in shootings and recruiting young people with the enticement of appearing in their songs and videos, federal authorities said Wednesday.

Acting U.S. Attorney Joshua Levy said the charges against the more than 40 members and associates of the Heath Street Gang included unemployment and COVID-19 fraud totaling more than \$900,000. They are also accused of organized retail theft, in which they allegedly stole thousands of dollars in merchandise from stores in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, including Nordstrom and Victoria's Secret. "One of the core missions of the Department of Justice is to keep communities safe, and the case we are announcing today goes right to that bedrock priority," Levy



Boston Police Chief Michael Cox speaks, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, during a news conference at the federal courthouse in Boston, about charges brought against 40 gang members in Boston that include drug trafficking, COVID fraud and racketeering.

told reporters, adding that nearly two dozen members of the gang were arrested Wednesday morning. Over 60 firearms were also seized as part of the two-year investigation.

"The defendants charged in the racketeering conspiracy have been alleged to be involved in three separate murders

and multiple shootings," he said. "Some of those shootings left innocent victims in crossfire, including a 9-year-old girl who was severely injured attending a family gathering."

Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox said the case shows the department's willingness to listen to the concerns of the community

in and around the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments in Jamaica Plain. He was hoping the charges and arrests would help build trust with residents.

"These bad actors that we targeted today took advantage of young people," Cox said.

"They used fear and intimidation and violence

to gain personally. They took advantage of the youngest amongst us," he said. "They took advantage of the sons and daughters in these neighborhoods and turned them to a life of crime. This is an impactful investigation. This is going to be impactful for our city for some time to come."

The gang members, many of whom are expected to appear in court later Wednesday, are accused of attempting to murder rival gang members, dealing drugs, including cocaine and fentanyl, and recruiting juveniles to serve as lookouts, to hold guns and drugs and to "engage in shootings."

"That is a problem we're hearing about from urban police chiefs across Massachusetts and frankly across the country," Levy said. "The honest law-abiding people who live in the Hailey apartments want the same thing we all want. They want to be able to send their children off to school, out to play without fear they are going to be hurt or recruited into a gang." □

Associated Press

3 officers shot in Washington while attempting to make an animal cruelty arrest

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three police officers were shot in Washington during an attempted animal cruelty arrest that touched off an hourslong standoff Wednesday, police said.

The wounds included injuries to officers' hands and feet, Metropolitan Police Department Chief Pamela Smith said. They were being treated at area hospitals, per the Metropolitan Police Department. A fourth officer was hurt at the scene, but not shot.

The shooter remained barricaded inside a home in the southeast part of the city and continued firing shots hours after opening fire on police, a police spokeswoman said.

The standoff started Wednesday morning as officers attempted to make an arrest on an animal cruelty warrant, but the suspect refused to leave the home, police said. As officers tried to get inside, a person opened fire.

"This remains an active situation and the individual has continued to fire from that location," Smith said.

Crisis negotiators were speaking to the suspect, Smith said as she pushed lawmakers to pass legislation that would strengthen penalties for gun offenses in the nation's capital.

One officer was struck by gunfire twice, but the rounds were stopped by a bulletproof vest, said Gregg Pemberton, chairman of the police union.

Two officers were struck in their lower legs. The fourth officer suffered hand injuries at the scene, he said.

"We expect some may have a lengthy recovery, but hopefully they'll be back on the streets again soon," Pemberton said.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the person firing at officers was the subject of the arrest warrant officers were serving.

Roads were closed and schools were locked down in the southeast part of the city and police warned people to stay far from the area as the shooting unfolded. The incident comes as the District of Columbia is struggling with a sharp increase in violent crime, which went up 39% in 2023. It was largely fueled by a

35% rise in homicides and growth in carjackings, which nearly doubled.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said

President Joe Biden is praying the officers make full recoveries and called for more congressional action on guns. □



Washington Metropolitan Police are shown near a scene where three police officers were shot and a fourth suffered minor injuries while responding to a shooting, Wednesday morning, Feb. 14, 2024 in Washington.

Associated Press

U.N. chief warns climate chaos and food crises threaten global peace

By EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations chief warned Tuesday that climate chaos and food crises are increasing threats to global peace, telling a high-level U.N. meeting that climate disasters imperil food production and “empty bellies fuel unrest.” Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged the U.N. Security Council to address the impact of food shortages and rising temperatures on international peace and security a view echoed by many countries but not Russia.

“Climate and conflict are two leading drivers of (our) global food crisis,” the secretary-general said. “Where wars rage, hunger reigns whether due to displacement of people, destruction of agriculture, damage to infrastructure, or deliberate policies of denial.”

“Meanwhile, climate chaos is imperiling food production the world over,” he said.

Guterres said the world is teeming with examples of “the devastating relationship between hunger and conflict.”

In war-torn Gaza, he said, no one has enough to eat and the tiny strip accounts for 80% of the 700,000 hungriest people in the world.



United Nations General Secretary António Guterres addresses a news conference during the BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Aug. 24, 2023.

After more than a decade of war in Syria, he said, 13 million Syrians go to bed hungry every night. And in Myanmar, prospects of ending hunger have gone into reverse because of conflict and instability, he said.

Simon Stiell, the United Nations climate chief, told the council that climate change is contributing to food insecurity and to conflict.

He said one in 10 people on the planet today already suffers from chronic hunger and if climate change accelerates, “it will become

worse.”

“Rapid, sustained action to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to increase resilience is needed now to help stop both from spiraling out of control,” Stiell said.

The executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change said the Security Council “must acknowledge more can be done rather than hoping the problem will go away which it won’t.”

The U.N.’s most powerful body should be requesting regular updates on climate security risks, he said.

Beth Bechdol, deputy director of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, said scientific evidence is clear: “Climate change is compromising food security, and its impacts are a growing threat to international peace and security.” She reiterated a longtime FAO warning: “There is no food security without peace, and no peace without food security.” Bechdol said 258 million people in 58 countries are facing high levels of food insecurity and over two-thirds of them 174 million people are at high hunger

levels because of climate and conflict.

“While there may not be a direct causality between the two, there is clear evidence that climate change increases risks and drivers of conflict and instability, such as disputes over land and water,” Bechdol said. “And conflict contributes to climate change vulnerability, especially for people who are forced to leave their homes and migrate.” As an example of the complex relationship between climate change and conflict, she pointed to West and Central Africa herders who had peacefully crossed borders with their livestock in search of water and pasture for years. But climate change, environmental and security pressures have led to increased tensions and competition between herders and farmers for scarce resources including water and land, she said.

Bechdol stressed that climate change and conflict affect not only livestock but crop production, fishing and forestry “which are intimately and inextricably linked to climate change.” She urged the U.N. and others to focus on agriculture “as a key solution to the growing threats from climate change, conflict and their impacts on food security.” □

24 investigated in Italy for promoting fascism at a gathering in Ferrara’s Jewish quarter

MILAN (AP) — Italian police on Wednesday raided the homes of 24 people under investigation for promoting fascism during a gathering at a restaurant in the Jewish quarter of Ferrara during which they lauded dictators Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler. The suspects were all residents of the northern Italian city in their 20s and 30s who attended a Dec. 20 gathering where they passed out material that not only praised Hitler and Mussolini, but also insulted Anne Frank and the



This picture taken from a publicly distributed police video shows some of the items recovered in the homes of 24 people investigated for apology of Fascism in Ferrara, northern Italy, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024.

Black Italian athlete Fiona May, said investigator Andrea Zaccone. The suspects wore orange prison uniforms common in the United States to the gathering, but it wasn’t clear why. The group threatened to kill other diners who interrupted their racist choruses, and refused to stop even after police responded to complaints, he said.

The suspects are under investigation for the charges of inciting racial hatred and apology of fascism, a crime in Italy that exalts Ita-

ly’s fascist past and seeks to revive the fascist party.

During raids, police recovered orange prison uniforms, a fake pistol, chains, knives, batons as well as printed material, including calendars, with Mussolini’s image. Electronic devices seized in the raids are being studied to see if the incident was a one-off or part of a larger pattern.

Antisemitic incidents have spiked in Italy since the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks in Israel and the resulting war in Gaza. □

Associated Press

Leaders of Turkey and Egypt unite in efforts to stop Israel's looming offensive in Gaza's Rafah

By **SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Egypt's leader united their efforts Wednesday in Cairo, calling for a halt to Israel's looming offensive on a southern Gaza city in its war against Hamas.

Erdogan's visit comes as ties between Ankara and Cairo are back on track after years of tensions and frosty relations. Turkey has long been a backer of the pan-Islamist Muslim Brotherhood group, which has been outlawed as a terrorist organization in Egypt.

The Turkish leader arrived in the Egyptian capital, his first visit to Cairo in over a decade, after visiting the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, where he met with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Erdogan met with President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi at Cairo's Iftihadiya palace, according to Egypt's state-run media. Their talks focused on bilateral relations and regional challenges, especially efforts to stop the war



In this handout photo released by Turkish Presidency, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, is welcomed by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sissi for their meeting at Al-Iftihadiya palace in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024.

in Gaza, el-Sissi later said at a joint news conference.

"We agreed on the need for an immediate ceasefire (in Gaza) and the need to achieve calm in the West Bank" to relaunch Israeli-Palestinian peace

talks with the ultimate goal of establishing an independent Palestinian state, el-Sissi said.

Egypt and Turkey fell out after the Egyptian military in 2013 ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, who hailed from the Muslim

Brotherhood, amid mass protest against his divisive one year of rule.

Over the past few years, Ankara abandoned its criticism of el-Sissi's government as it tried to repair frayed ties with Egypt and other Arab heavyweights.

Associated Press

In November 2022, Erdogan and el-Sissi were photographed shaking hands during the World Cup in Qatar.

The war in Gaza has reached a critical point, with an impending Israeli offensive on the city of Rafah, along the Gaza Strip's border with Egypt, where some 1.4 million people over half the territory's population are crammed into tent camps and overflowing apartments and shelters.

Speaking at the news conference with el-Sissi, Erdogan urged Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to avoid a ground offensive in Rafah and accused the Israeli government of committing "massacres" in Gaza.

"Efforts to depopulate Gaza are not acceptable," he said. Egypt is concerned that a ground assault on Rafah would push hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians across the border and into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

It has threatened to suspend the country's decades-old peace treaty with Israel. □

Myanmar says newly activated conscription law will draft 5,000 people a month. Some think of fleeing

By **GRANT PECK**
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar's military government on Wednesday said it will draft 60,000 young men

and women yearly for military service under its newly activated conscription law, with call-ups beginning after the April festival marking the country's traditional

New Year.

The conscription measure was activated on Saturday by order of the chairman of the ruling military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing. His surprise announcement appeared to confirm that the military has been stretched thin by increasing pressure from armed pro-democracy resistance forces that emerged after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

There are no reliable figures for the size of Myanmar's military. The CIA World Factbook estimated that last year it had around 150,000-400,000 personnel. The Washington-based U.S. Institute of Peace has suggested that 21,000 service

personnel have been lost through casualties, desertions and defections since the military takeover, leaving an effective force of about 150,000.

Under the law, men aged 18 to 35 and women 18 to 27 can be drafted into the armed forces for two years. A higher age limit of 45 for men and 35 for women applies in certain professional categories such as medical doctors and engineers, and their term of service is three years.

The army's information office said in a statement sent to journalists that 5,000 people each month will be called up and given training. Women will be called up starting with the fifth batch, it said.

Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun,

spokesperson for the military government, said in a statement published in the state-run Myanmar Alinn newspaper that about 14 million people 6.3 million men and 7.7 million women of the country's population of 56 million are eligible for military service.

He told the BBC's Burmese language service on Tuesday that the initial batch of 5,000 conscripts would be called up soon after the traditional Thingyan New Year celebration in mid-April.

The conscription law's activation has created fear, anxiety and defiance among young people and their parents, according to postings on social media and private conversations. □



Military officers march during a parade to commemorate Myanmar's 78th Armed Forces Day in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, on March 27, 2023.

Associated Press

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life)*, "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and liter-



ary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing

works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas





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Visit the island's hidden natural pools



(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two "hidden" natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool

that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known "Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to

purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm.

It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours

Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at the Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These visitors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba

Mr. Alfred & Mrs. Theresa Russo from New Jersey, United States.

Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba

Mr. James Flajnik & Mrs. Kathleen Chainey from Massachusetts, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Marriott's

Aruba Ocean Club bestowed the Goodwill Ambassador certifications to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

The Russo's:

- The consistently beautiful weather.
- Aruba's wonderful people who are genuinely nice.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- "The Marriott Resort & timeshare."
- "The ease of traveling to Aruba."

The Flajnik's

- "Aruba is our home away from home."
- Aruba's consistent warm weather.
- Aruba warm & welcoming people.
- Aruba's picturesque sunsets.

- Aruba's beautiful beaches.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



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Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat,

chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road

that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista



Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place

to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

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Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is

said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole.

It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year

round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.

Episode CIV 104 - Ocher

NOORD — Ochre, or ocher in American English, is a natural clay earth pigment which is a mixture of ferric oxide and varying amounts of clay and sand and is the first pigment known to have been used for painting by different cultures around the world. The natural pigments of the earth consist of three parts: the color-

producing component, the modifying component and the base or carrier of the color (almost always clay, a degraded product of silicate rocks).

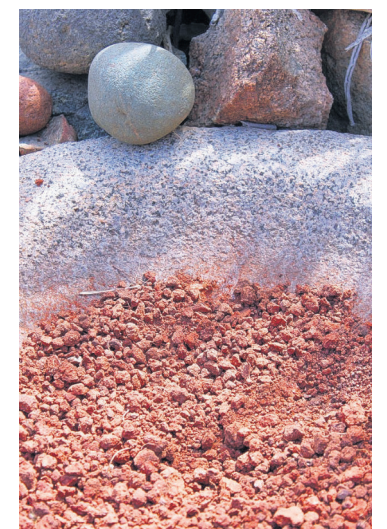
When we think of ocher we think of the color red but it is a natural yellow mineral pigment, which consists of clay, siliceous materi-

als and the hydrated form of iron oxide known as limonite, which is the fundamental component of ocher earths. Other natural forms of earth pigments related to ocher include sienna, which is similar to yellow ocher but warmer and more translucent in color; and amber, which has goethite as its main component and incorporates various levels of manganese. Red oxides or red ocher are forms of yellow ocher rich in hematite, which are commonly formed from the natural aerobic weathering of iron-containing minerals. Ocher is very common in archaeological sites around the world. The first possible use of ocher discovered so far is from a Homo erectus site about 285,000 years old. At the site in Kenya's Kapthurin Formation, a total of five kilograms (11 pounds)

of ocher was discovered in more than 70 pieces. 250,000-200,000 years ago, Neanderthals used ocher at the Maastricht Belvédère site in the Netherlands (Roebroeks) and the Benu rock refuge in Spain. Ocher was part of the earliest art that the Stone Age man had practiced in Africa. The earliest 100,000-year-old modern human assemblages, such as at the Blombos Cave and Klein Kliphuis in South Africa, rock art as well as stone have been found which includes examples of etched ocher, ocher slabs with carved patterns deliberately cut into the surface. In 2014 the Spanish paleontologist Carlos Duarte suggested that the use of red ocher as a pigment in tattoos (otherwise ingested) may have had a role in human evolution, as it would have been a source of iron directly to

the human brain, perhaps Ocher applied on granite surface by native Aruban cultures. Here we can see the part of Weburi's rock art at Piedra Plat.

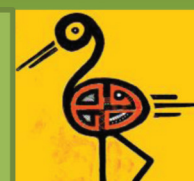
To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianaativa03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. ☐



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?



There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch,

it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up

with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor

and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.

CROSSWORD

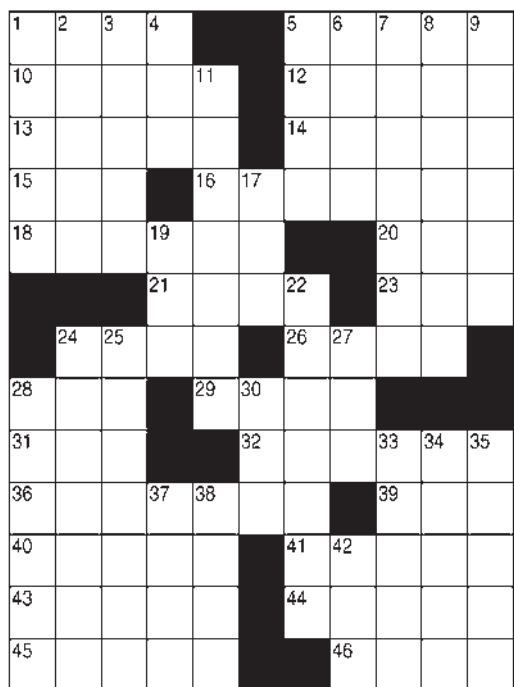
By THOMAS JOSEPH



- ACROSS**
- 41 Nearby
 - 1 Uncloudy
 - 43 Caught
 - 5 Nigerian city
 - 44 Safe spot
 - 45 Undoes sense
 - 46 Stiff drink
 - 13 Italian physicist
 - 14 Gun-powder ingredient
 - 15 Mine yield
 - 16 Bureau-cratc hassle
 - 18 Very popular
 - 20 — Antonio
 - 21 Woeful cry
 - 23 Important time
 - 24 Show up
 - 26 Diplomatic skill
 - 28 Phoned copy
 - 29 Phone assistant
 - 31 Paris pal
 - 32 View from Yemen
 - 36 Carni-vore's craving
 - 39 Price setting
 - 40 Space visitor

- DOWN**
- 1 Party gift
 - 2 Find darling
 - 3 Took it easy
 - 4 Tire track
 - 5 Hit the runway
 - 6 Stepped down
 - 7 "Can I talk to you?"
 - 8 Self-contained
 - 9 Venus's sister
 - 11 Lets out early
 - 17 Greek vowel
 - 19 Deli meat
 - 22 Prison sentence
 - 24 Arthur's home
 - 25 Rust, say
 - 27 Help out
 - 28 Electrical units
 - 30 S&L offering
 - 33 Hot spot
 - 34 Art supporter
 - 35 Deal maker
 - 37 Convene
 - 38 Finishes
 - 42 Research site

Yesterday's answer



2-15

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

NAGKZO AT DG EH JZFP, WSK

ZKZOGFB TQOAGV AT AG EH

JZFOK. — LAUKDO JSVD

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE ONLY THING WE NEVER GET ENOUGH OF IS LOVE; AND THE ONLY THING WE NEVER GIVE ENOUGH OF IS LOVE. — HENRY MILLER

Millennial Money: Should you care about your partner's credit score?



The likeness of George Washington is seen on a U.S. one dollar bill, Monday, March 13, 2023, in Marple Township, Pa.

Associated Press

By LAUREN SCHWAHN of NerdWallet

Discussing credit scores with your partner isn't anyone's idea of pillow talk. But the conversation can provide important clues about your beloved's history with money and what your financial future together could look like. Why do credit scores matter, and are they enough to make or break a relation-

ship? Here's what couples should know about scores and what else they should discuss when it comes to their finances.

CREDIT SCORES CARRY WEIGHT

Credit scores can determine whether you and your significant other get approved for loans, what kind of interest rates you'll get and how much you'll have to put down for a util-

ity deposit. "Having good credit is definitely important for affordability for many different things, like when it comes to purchasing a car or applying for an apartment or a mortgage," says Shamica Joseph, a former financial counselor at GreenPath, a nonprofit credit counseling agency. Spouses don't merge credit scores when they get married. But if you plan to combine or open credit accounts together, regardless of marital status, your partner's behavior on those accounts can shift your scores. The same goes if one of you becomes an authorized user or co-signer for the other. Low scores can prevent you and your sweetheart from accessing certain products and services you desire, or make them more expensive. □

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RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday



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Franklin from 'Peanuts' gets to shine in the spotlight of a new animated Apple TV+ special

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The mild-mannered Franklin the first Black character in the "Peanuts" comic strip gets to shine in his own animated Apple TV+ special this month in a story about friendship.

Franklin is a newcomer who bonds with Charlie Brown and is welcomed to the Peanuts universe in "Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin," which premieres on Friday. Co-writer Robb Armstrong, the cartoonist behind the "Jump Start" strip, says he's building on the blueprints that "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz left. "Whenever you start with good ingredients, you have to work hard to make a bad cake out of it," he says.

Race is never explicitly mentioned but Armstrong and co-writer Scott Montgomery make a subtle nod when Franklin surveys the kids in his new town and remarks, "One thing was for sure: There was a lack of variety in this place."

"I never wanted to come off preachy or anything, but it needed to be handled in the same way that I handled it in 'Jump Start,'" says Armstrong. "I don't come out and call people anything. I let the characters participate in a problem solving process." The por-



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Peanuts characters Charlie Brown, right, and Franklin in a scene from the animated special "Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin," premiering Friday.

trait of Franklin that emerges is of a boy who likes baseball and outer space, is good with his hands and listens to Stevie Wonder, Little Richard, James Brown and John Coltrane.

When he arrives in town, he's tired of a life constantly moving, since his father's military job takes them from location to location. "I have lived in lot of different places but none that I can call home," he says.

But his introduction to the "Peanuts" gang initially goes poorly. He mistakes Lucy's psychiatric booth for a lemonade stand and he freaks Linus out by picking a pumpkin from his patch. "If I didn't know better, I'd swear I was in 'The Twilight Zone,'" Franklin says.

"Every time he's moved, he's had to learn how to make friends quick and that meant that he didn't feel he could ever be his authentic self," said director and story editor Raymond S. Persi. "So when he comes to this town, his normal tricks don't work because these are kind of weird kids."

Franklin made his first appearance in the newspaper strip on July 31, 1968, prompted by a request from a school teacher for Schulz to integrate his comic strip world in the wake of the assassination of The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Schulz introduced him by having Franklin return Charlie Brown's wayward beach ball one day by

the sea. It was a historical meeting and a statement: Many public beaches, like other public facilities such as schools, swimming pools, theaters and restaurants, were segregated at the time. The new Apple TV+ special recreates that first meeting, with Franklin returning Charlie Brown's errant beach ball and then the two building a sandcastle together.

"To have this very simple idea of two children who don't know about racism, having fun playing at the beach, building something together, I think was just so smart," said Persi.

Franklin and Charlie Brown soon enter a soap box derby competition and their friendship is tested before

a deep bond is forged. "They're not perfect. I'm not perfect. But we can get through the rough spots together, as friends," Franklin says. "What I really like about the special is you're getting a chance to see this friendship kind of grow in real time, in the way that real friendships do," says Persi, who has directed animated projects with "The Simpsons," Mickey Mouse and the Minions.

As usual for a "Peanuts" show, music plays a key role. Original music by Jeff Morrow leans into sophisticated jazz and, in nods to Franklin, Berry's "Johnny B. Goode," "Nothing from Nothing" by Billy Preston and some Coltrane playing on a jukebox.

Armstrong has also used the special to correct some misperceptions about the 1973 classic "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving." In that special, Franklin sits by himself on one side of the Thanksgiving table, leading some to suggest he's not been fully embraced.

In the new special, Franklin is specifically asked to come sit with his new pals on their side during a pizza party celebration.

Armstrong says he started with that scene and then had to figure out how the gang got there. The writers came up with a soap box derby. □

Associated Press

Next stop Hollywood? Travis Kelce gets first producer credit on SXSW movie

By **The Associated Press**

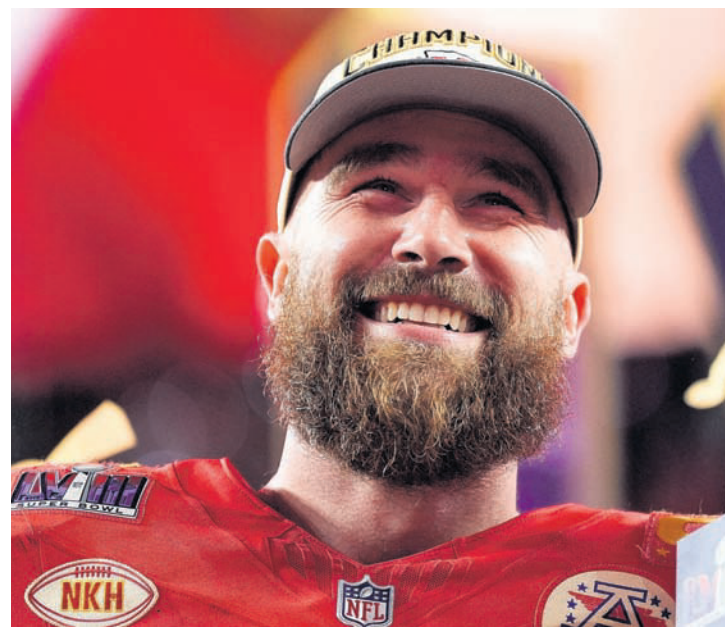
Travis Kelce is already making moves in Hollywood. The Super Bowl champ has his first executive producer credit on a new film that will have its world premiere in March at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas.

"My Dead Friend Zoe" is described as a darkly comedic drama about a U.S. Army veteran, the dead best friend she can't let go and her estranged grandfather. The film stars Ed Harris, Sonequa Martin-Green and Natalie Morales, who are all credited as executive producers alongside Kelce. Directed and co-written by Kyle Hausmann-Stokes, "My Dead Friend Zoe" will debut on March 9 at the festival. It does not yet have a distributor in place for wider release.

Kelce, whose high-profile romance with Taylor Swift has sparked a frenzy, has hinted about plans to dip his toes into entertainment following his "Saturday Night Live" appearance last year. Last week before the Super Bowl, he told the Los Angeles Times that he's been focused on football but that "there's definitely Hollywood talks out there."

He said that, personally, his preferred genre is comedy.

"I'm comedy all the way," he said. "I just like to have a fun time and make people laugh." □



Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) celebrates after the NFL Super Bowl 58 football game against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Stephen Curry vs. Sabrina Ionescu is an All-Star matchup that was a long time coming

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

She's the player with the best 3-point contest performance in NBA or WNBA history. He's made more 3-pointers than anyone who's ever played at the highest level. Sabrina Ionescu. Stephen Curry.

She's one of his favorites and led the WNBA in 3-pointers made last season. He's one of her idols and is the NBA's all-time 3-point leader. And on Saturday night in Indianapolis at All-Star weekend, they will go head-to-head in a 3-point contest. Steph vs. Sabrina, one that's already got both of them amped up for a competition on a global stage like none other between NBA and WNBA stars.

"It's going to be a great experience for us both," Ionescu said.

Added Curry: "It's an authentic competition between two great shooters."

It's not their first time facing off the New York Liberty and Golden State Warriors stars have played HORSE against each other, and



New York Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu (20) reacts after making a 3-point basket against the Connecticut Sun in the second half during a WNBA basketball game, Saturday, May 7, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

from the way they were telling the story on Tuesday night, it was clear that Ionescu won that matchup. Their relationship goes back well over a decade and they've been in the stands to see each other play; Ionescu is a kid from the Bay Area whose family had Warriors season tickets, Curry took his daughters to

see Ionescu play when she was at Oregon facing Cal in 2020. Ionescu talked to Curry's girls that night and neither they, nor their dad, forgot that act of kindness. There is a clear, deep respect between the two. The winner on Saturday night gets bragging rights, but both of them know there's a far bigger prize

than winning.

"I think a lot of people are either on one side or the other of their reactions, like this dopest thing in the world, it's the first of its kind and it'll be something that kind of changes the narrative of what it looks like," Curry said. "But then also, there is the camp that's like 'Oh, you've

got a lot on the line. You really want to take on that challenge? What if you lose?' There's a lot of fear attached to it, really, I guess. This is what sports is about."

Here's how we got here: Ionescu put on a shooting show for all-time in the WNBA's 3-point contest last summer. She missed her first shot of that final round, then made her next 20 yes, 20 before missing again, and then she made her final five. The totals: 25-for-27 shooting, from seven different 3-point spots on the floor, in 63 seconds.

Ionescu posed for a photo imitating Curry's famous lights-out pose while holding her trophy at the WNBA event and raised the possibility of a matchup. She had just scored 37 shootout points; Curry's best in the NBA version of the 3-point contest is 31.

Then came last month, when Curry was wired with a microphone for Golden State's game against Sacramento and had a discussion with Warriors teammate Brandin Podziemski about Ionescu. □

Luis Arraez goes to arbitration with Marlins for 2nd straight year. Jason Adam loses hearing

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Two-time batting champion Luis Arraez tried to win his salary arbitration case for the second straight year on Tuesday, while Tampa Bay reliever Jason Adam failed to become the first player in five years to win twice in a row.

Arraez asked a panel for \$12 million instead of the Miami Marlins' \$10.6 million offer. A decision by Keith Greenberg, Stephen Raymond and Richard McNeill is expected Wednesday.

Arraez won the 2022 AL batting title for Minnesota when he hit .316 with eight homers and 49 RBIs, then was traded to Miami in January 2023 and won in arbitration when a

panel picked his \$6.1 million request rather than the Marlins' \$5 million offer. Arraez then captured the NL batting title, setting career

highs with a .354 average, 10 homers and 69 RBIs.

Arraez, who turns 27 in April, is eligible for free agency after the 2025 season.



Miami Marlins' Luis Arraez runs the bases after hitting a solo home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Friday, Sept. 15, 2023, in Miami.

Associated Press

Players lead 7-4 with five cases pending.

Adam was awarded the team's \$2.7 million offer rather than his \$3.25 million request by Walt De Treux, John Woods and Janice Johnston. Adam won last year when he was given his \$1,775,000 request instead of the team's \$1.55 million offer.

A 32-year-old right-hander, Adam was 4-2 with a 2.98 ERA and 12 saves in 17 chances over 56 relief appearances last season. He struck out 69 and walked 20 in 54 1/3 innings.

The last players to win hearings in consecutive years were Houston pitcher Colin McHugh in 2017 and '18, and Cleveland pitcher

Trevor Bauer in 2018 and 2019.

Tampa Bay outfielder Harold Ramirez also is among the players with pending arbitration cases and has asked for \$4.3 million instead of the Rays' \$3.8 million offer. Ramirez won last year at \$2.2 million, when the team offered \$1.9 million, then set career bests with a .313 average, 12 homers and 68 RBIs.

Also awaiting hearings are Philadelphia third baseman Alec Bohm (\$4 million vs. \$3.4 million), Baltimore first baseman/outfielder Ryan O'Hearn (\$3.8 million vs. \$3.2 million) and Miami left-hander Tanner Scott (\$5.7 million vs. \$5.15 million). □

Return of 3ICE gives the NHL another chance to see how a potential 3-on-3 OT rule change works

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

When the NHL implemented 3-on-3 play in overtime nearly a decade ago, the idea was to see the most speed and skill hockey had to offer.

In recent years, 3 on 3 has slowed down, leading league officials to debate rule changes, such as not allowing the puck to go back past the center red line like over and back in basketball. The 3ICE league has had that rule from the beginning, and its return for a third season this spring and summer is another chance for the NHL to see how the experiment works for potential future use.

"That's one of my favorite



Hockey Hall of Fame and a four-time Stanley Cup winner Larry Murphy is honored before the start of an NHL hockey game between the Los Angeles Kings and the New York Islanders, Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

rules," Hall of Famer, four-time Stanley Cup champion and 3ICE coach Larry

Murphy said, adding he'd support the NHL making that change. "What's great about the red line over-and-back rule is it puts a little more pressure on the puck the team with the puck, the possession team. They've got a smaller area to work with."

Murphy's team won the Patrick Cup as 3ICE champions last year, and he's back to defend that title for the league's third season that runs from June 12-Aug. 14. He's one of six Hall of Fame players serving as coaches for the eight teams, joined by Ray Bourque, Joe Mullen, Grant Fuhr, Guy Carbonneau and 2023 inductee Pierre Turgeon.

Adding to the group this season is retired New Jersey Devils defenseman Ken Daneyko, who despite being a rough and tumble player, likes what the NHL has done with 3 on 3 and wants to get through some coaching before recommending rule changes to the top league in the world. "I don't think it's taken away from the excitement," Daneyko said. "The rules of 3ICE, I think it's the right thing for the league, and if the NHL likes it as well and adopts it, OK, I'd be all for it." Colorado's Cale Makar, the 2022 playoff MVP and Norris Trophy winner as the league's top defenseman when the Avalanche won the Stanley Cup, plays plenty of 3-on-3 OT and is content with how it's currently constructed.

"I am indifferent on that," Makar said. "You utilize (speed) coming out of the zone, but if it's the red line, it's fine. I still think there's a lot of action." EJ Johnston, the founder and CEO of 3ICE, said there's regular conversations between his folks and NHL officials, who have shared that they like the over-and-back rule, in particular.

"You cannot go into the offensive zone, skate the puck out and cross the center-ice line without being a turnover," Johnston said. □



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